LATVIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS. Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh on 27 February handed over to Latvian Prime Minister Maris Gailis a letter from his Russian counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdin. Chernomyrdin promised to help find "a peaceful and conflict-free solution" to the problem of the estimated 2,000 Russian retired servicemen who are still in Latvia, despite agreements signed by Russia saying they would leave by 31 August 1993. Latvia agreed to give the Russian servicemen temporary residence permits until 30 April if they registered by 1 March. Less than half have done so and could therefore be deported. Russia has asked that the retirees be allowed to remain in Latvia until the end of the year so that problems with their resettlement can be resolved. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

The Baltic American Freedom League is reprinting the Baltic Bulletins, which were published from 1982 to 1992, and binding them in a single volume hard cover library edition. The publication is over 500 pages with the original text and photographs in a convenient 8 1/2 X 11 format. It will be distributed to major universities and libraries as a record of the drive by Balts to recapture their independence from the Soviet Union. This reprint is available for purchase at $30.00 per copy, including postage. Persons interested in purchasing a copy for themselves may send checks to:

The Baltic American Freedom League

P.O. Box 29657

Los Angeles, CA 90029

And finally, on a lighter note, we have this item from *Lietuvos Aidas*. Somewhere in Australia, a kangaroo is hopping around wearing a jacket and carrying a Russian passport. It seems that a certain famous Russian actor was taking a friend to the airport when the car they were driving struck a kangaroo. Thinking the animal to be dead, the pair decided to take a picture of the kangaroo wearing the friend's jacket. About the time they snapped the picture, the kangaroo, who was only stunned, woke up and proceeded to disappear into the bush. The jacket contained cash, an airline ticket and the traveler's Russian passport.

TODAY IN NEW JERSEY

~~**This Sunday**~~**, March 5, the Knights of Lithuania** is sponsoring a Blýniu Báliu, or Lithuanian Mardi Gras party at the Lithuanian Catholic Cultural Center (LCCC) in Kearny, New Jersey. This event is the first step taken by a group of Lithuanian youth to revitalize this club which has long been run by the local Lithuanian parish.